plants are abundant only in State Forests and Amrut Mahal Kavals. Permission may kindly be given to get them from the said reserved area, free of charge.

Reply of Government.—(*a*) The charge will be reduced to rupees two per hundred.

(*b*) Cannot be done.

SUBJECT No. 167.

Relief to persons whose houses are destroyed by accidental fire.

(1) Mr. C. Subba Rao, Shimoga Municipality.

Summary of discussion.—(1) The rules now in force provide for the free grant of building materials to agriculturists whose houses are destroyed by accidental fire from the district forests, of a value not exceeding the amount of one year's kandayam payable by them, but do not provide for any sort of relief to non-agriculturists whose houses are similarly destroyed. The existing rules may be modified so as to empower Deputy Commissioners to grant materials of the value of Rs. 25 to poor persons who are not agriculturists.

The free grants of wood and bamboos now made to persons, whose houses are destroyed by accidental fire, scarcely suffice for the construction of thatched houses. To enable ryots who desire to construct substantial tiled houses in lieu of those destroyed by fire, it is prayed that a sufficient quantity of good wood may be granted to them and the cost thereof recovered in ten years.

(2) Messrs. C. Vamana Rao and Nadig Subba Rao, Nagar taluk.

(2) The present mode of granting relief to persons whose houses are destroyed by accidental fires occupies much time in correspondence for various reasons. It is desirable to empower the Amildars to grant materials of a value not exceeding Rs. 20 to the sufferers to afford them timely relief. Information regarding the materials actually granted may be obtained from the Amildars subsequently.

(3) Mr. Bhaskar Rao, Sorab taluk.

(3) Amildars should be empowered to grant, on their own authority, materials of a value of Rs. 25 from the district forests to persons whose houses are destroyed by accidental fire.

(4) Messrs. Putte Gowda, Channapatna taluk; and C. R Nanjundayya, Channapatna Municipality.

(4) The existing rule for the free grant of forest materials to the inhabitants of villages destroyed by fire accidents, is applicable only to kandayam-paying ryots to the extent of the kandayam paid by them. Mohatarfa tax-payers and ryots paying small revenues receive only insignificantly small quantities of materials which could be of no use to them. Five rupees worth of materials may therefore be fixed as the minimum to be given to such persons. Also all the villagers affected may be given rations for the first two days.

Reply of Government.—Will be considered. It should be possible to delegate to Amildars power up to a limit of money grant, the action taken being reported with necessary details.